

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S:FORTIZ:JLH

APPROVED BY: S/S:MR ORTIZ

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P 231748Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 098953 TOSEC 110019

NODIS

FOL REPEAT OF CAIRO 5571 TO SECSTATE APR 23

QTE:

S E C R E T CAIRO 05571

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJ: MESSAGE FOR SADAT AND FAHMY

REF: STATE 097713

1. IT HAS INDEED BEEN FRUSTRATING TO GET BACK
NOTHING FROM FAHMY EXCEPT REITERATIONS OF EGYPTIAN
SUSPICIONS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO SYRIAN ROLE IN
LEBANON. THIS, UNFORTUNATELY, HAS BEEN A FACT OF LIFE
HERE AND SHOWS LITTLE SIGN OF ABATING. AS I HAVE
PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, ONLY WAY TO ASSUAGE CURRENT
EGYPTIAN SUSPICIONS OF SYRIA IS IF ASAD STOPS
ATTACKING SINAI II AND ATTRIBUTING LEBANESE CHAOS TO
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SINAI II AND ITS SIGNER, SADAT. THAT, I AM SURE, IS

NOT CURRENTLY IN THE CARDS.

2. I AGREE THAT MY TALK OF APRIL 21 WITH FAHMY, BASED ON YOUR MESSAGE CONTAINED IN STATE 95617, WAS THE FIRST TIME HE SHOWED ANY REAL INTEREST IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE. IN DOING SO, HE MADE NO BONES ABOUT HIS CONTINUING SKEPTISM OF OUR ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE SYRIANS, BUT THIS WAS TO BE EXPECTED. IN MY JUDGEMENT, REASON FOR HIS SLIGHTLY GREATER FORTH-COMINGNESS WAS THAT APRIL 21 MESSAGE HAD A LITTLE MORE MEAT THAN MOST OF THOSE WE PREVIOUSLY SENT HIM. WE HAVE WORKED WITH FAHMY LONG ENOUGH BY NOW THAT WE SHOULD KNOW MDCE RECEIPT OF A MESSAGE RARELY SATISFIES HIM. TO DO THAT, THE MESSAGE MUST SAY SOMETHING. AS YOU KNOW, HE HAS COMPLAINED THAT MANY OF OUR MESSAGES ARE LARGELY "COMPOSITION) EXERCISES. ON ONE OCCASION, TOO, HE SAID TO ME THAT HE GETS MORE OUT OF READING THE NEWSPAPERS THAN HE DOES FROM SOME OF THE MESSAGES WE SEND HIM. FOR REASONS THAT I AM SURE WERE PERFECTLY VALID, THE MESSAGES WE SENT HIM ON THE EUROPEAN TRIP WERE LEAN PICKINGS AS REGARDS SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT. FAHMY IS TOO SMART NOT TO NOTICE THIS AND, WHENEVER IT HAPPENS, HIS INNATE SUSPICIONS ARE AROUSED.

3. I HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO GET FAHMY TODAY, EITHER AT HIS HOME OR AT HIS OFFICE. IT IS FRIDAY AND HE MAY BE OUT. IF I CANNOT GET HIM TODAY, I WILL DELIVER LATEST MESSAGE TOMORROW. I THINK HE WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT. IT PROVIDES THE KIND OF DETAIL ABOUT OUR EVALUATION OF LEBANON AND OUR ACTIVITIES THAT HE LIKES. HE MAY NOT AGREE WITH ALL OF OUR VIEWS, BUT HE WILL APPRECIATE OUR CANDOR AND TRY TO RECIPROCATE. BUT WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT TOO MUCH. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, THE EGYPTIAN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT LEBANON REMAINS LARGELY PAROCHIAL AND TACTICAL. IT IS DICTATED MORE BY ANTI-SYRIAN CONSIDERATIONS THAN ANY OVERWHELMING CONCERN ABOUT STOPPING THE LEBANESE BLOODLETTING. EILTS UNQTE SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, CAT-B, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowelIE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE098953
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/S:FORTIZ:JLH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760003-0438
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760428/aaaaaxdn.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 97713
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowelIE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by RowelIE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FOR SADAT AND FAHMY
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MPOL, EG, US, LE, SY, (SADAT, ANWAR), (ASAD, HAFIZ), (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006